

in the embrace of the *A. limax*. The latter assumed a perfectly circular outline, and after awhile a uniformly smooth surface; but the central contractile vesicle remained in the same condition, nor did he once observe it enlarge or collapse. The *A. limax* now moved away with its new capture, and after a short time what had been the head end contracted, became wrinkled and villous in appearance, while from what had been the tail end a number (ten) of conical pseudopods projected. The *A. verrucosa* assumed an oval form, and the contractile vesicle became indistinct, without collapsing. Moving on, the *A. limax* became more slug-like in shape, measuring about  $\frac{1}{7}$  m. long, by  $\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{8}$  m. broad. The *A. verrucosa* now appeared inclosed in a large oval clear vacuole, was constricted so as to be gourd-shaped, and had lost all traces of its contractile vesicle. Subsequently, the *A. verrucosa* was doubled upon itself; and at this period, the *A. limax* discharged from one side of the tail end, the siliceous case of the diatome, which now contained only a shrivelled cord of endochrome. Later the *A. verrucosa* was broken up into five spherical granular balls, and these gradually became obscured and apparently diffused among the granular contents of the entosarc of the *A. limax*. At one moment the five granular balls derived from the *A. verrucosa* appeared to be contained in three vacuoles, and the *A. limax* had a more contracted and radiate form, and then measured  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. in diameter.

The observation, from the time of the seizure of the *A. verrucosa* to its digestion, or disappearance among the granular matter of the entosarc of the *A. limax*, occupied seven hours.

From naked Amœbæ, the test protected rhizopods were no doubt evolved, and it is a curious sight to observe them swallowed, home and all, to be digested out of their home, just as the contents of diatomes are digested. It was also interesting to observe the cannibal Amœba swallowing another, and appropriating its structure to its own, just as we might do a piece of flesh, completely, without there being any excrementitious matter to be voided.

*Habits of Formica rufa.*—Mr. McCook, speaking of the habits of *Formica rufa*, stated that the ants descending the tree-paths, with abdomens swollen with honey-dew (called by him *Repletes*), were arrested at the foot of the trees by workers from the hill seeking food. Galleries communicating with the hill, opened at these points, around and in which numbers of ants were huddled engaged in drawing or bestowing rations of honey-dew. Similar commissary stations were found under the stones near by. The replete reared upon her hind legs, and placed her mouth to the mouth of the pensioner, who assumed the same rampant posture. Frequently two, sometimes three pensioners were thus fed at once by one replete. Apparently the workers engaged in building at the hill and galleries

had thus resorted to these feeding places to obtain ordinary food, in the same manner that queens, males, and young ants receive it, viz., by disgorgement from the abdomens of repletes. The latter commonly yielded the honey-dew complacently, but sometimes were seized and arrested by the pensioners, occasionally with great vigor.

A number of experiments were described leading to the conclusion that there was complete amity between the ants of a large portion of the field, embracing some 1600 hills and countless millions of creatures. Insects from hills widely separated always fraternized completely when transferred. A number of ants collected from various hills fraternized in an artificial nest, harmoniously building galleries and caring for the cocoons.

It was found that ants immersed in water when replaced upon the hills were invariably attacked as enemies; the assailants, being immersed, were themselves in turn assaulted. A number of experiments were made which indicated that the bath had temporarily destroyed the peculiar odor or other property by which the insects recognized their fellows.

The variety of *F. rufa* which had colonized in vast numbers on the cliff at Rockland opposite the steamboat landing, as observed for the last three summers, were found that morning to have abandoned the place. No trace of them could be seen in the vicinity. The crowds of human beings who occupied the spot during the late International regatta had evidently dispersed the republic.

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OCTOBER 17.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-six members present.

A paper entitled "Descriptions of some Vertebrate Remains from the Fort Union Beds of Montana," by Edward D. Cope, was presented for publication.

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OCTOBER 24.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-seven members present.

*On Webs of New Species of Spiders.*—Mr. McCook called attention to several new species of spiders, with the view to illustrate the existence of mixed habits in construction of the web. The first of the two great groups of the Araneæ, viz., the